

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1904.

The License Outlook.

The Civic Union, at its first meeting put itself on record against any increase this year in the number of licensed saloons or taverns. The union's expression of sentiment is probably in accord with the general sentiment throughout the town on the question of licensed places for the sale of intoxicants. There is, however, a desire on the part of not a few people to make a break in the rigidity that has been characteristic of the policy pursued in this town towards saloons of late years.

One of the arguments that are urged against the present policy is that it is not equitably applied; that one ward has eleven saloons, another ward six, and another one only two. If those people who complain of a lack of equity in the distribution of saloons will take a walk through East Orange and Montclair, and note the method of distributing saloons in vogue in both those places they will be forced to the conclusion that the local policy is exceedingly liberal in comparison.

There have been rumors of late that there was going to be an increase made in the number of licensed places and points at which the new saloons were to be located have been named. It has been no secret that influences are at work in the interest of applicants for licenses for several places—one on Upper Broad street in the Brookdale district, one east of the canal in the

vicinity of Liberty and Walnut streets, one on Glenwood avenue south of the Lackawanna Railroad, and one in the Silver Lake district near the Newark city line. With the exception of the last named locality, it has been noticeable that the mere rumor of the location of a saloon has excited the people who are to be effected by its threatened presence to open opposition, and opponents of the saloons, and not all of them strictly temperance people, are making known their opposition to any further saloon projects. Members of the Council who have recently felt the force of this undercurrent of opposition to any increase in the number of saloons, are prudently getting on the safe side, and have about concluded that it would be unwise and unpopular to make any departure from the policy in vogue for several years. In the case of some wholesale licenses that may be applied for the case will be difficult.

Petitions are now in circulation to which people are being asked to attach their names in favor of a license being granted to a petitioner. These petitions are dangerous documents to sign. There is a possibility that the man who signs one does so on the ground that the proposed saloon is far enough away from his place. If it were otherwise, he would undoubtedly sign a remonstrance against a saloon.

It is obvious that a man who signs a petition to locate a saloon in any locality is not consistent when he signs a remonstrance against one in his own locality. The safe way is to steer clear of all petitions in favor of saloons.

Equal Taxation.

At the May meeting of the New England Society of the Oranges "Equal Taxation" was the topic discussed. Henry V. Condict President of the Jersey City Board of Trade was one of the speakers and said:

"The question is whether the railroads are taxed as they should be. I do not believe we shall ever have equal taxation, because the valuation of property remains in human control, but I do hope for equal tax rates. We are not expecting equal taxation, but we are expecting to have laws that call for equal taxation. We have laws against the crime of murder, but they do not prevent it."

Mr. Condict argued that the payment of a franchise tax to the State was inequitable, because all portions of the State shared the money, whereas railroad property is not equally distributed, there being thirteen municipalities in the State in which there is no railroad property. Mr. Condict declared that the valuation of property was what it

would fetch at a forced sale.

The next speaker was Senator William D. Edwards, who presented the subject from a railroad point of view. He said: "Some seven or eight years ago Jersey City thought it was entitled to some additional taxes from the railroads, and I did what I could to secure the relief, and it was granted. Now, I am here to tell what the railroad view of this question is. I don't pretend to give my personal views on any subject. It is true that the people of the State have great veneration for the railroads. They treat them as the Republican party treats the tariff, as an infant industry, and they started away back in 1830 with a method of taxation which the courts held was a contract. The railroads later relinquished their rights and made a new deal, because the State under the old deal, had a right to take the railroads at cost."

Mr. Edwards continued by showing that the main stem of the Pennsylvania Railroad as assessed at three times its cost. In East Orange, he continued, the Lackawanna pays \$1.50 per \$1.00 at full valuation. It has 1.54 miles of main stem sixty-six feet wide and altogether containing twelve and a half acres. The total acreage of East Orange is 2,493. The total valuation in the city is \$16,381,200, as reported by the assessors. The average valuation per acre is \$6,560. The railroad company pays \$16,650 at the full valuation, but if the property was assessed at the average rate per acre of valuation it would pay only \$8,388.

George L. Record, Corporation Counsel of Jersey City, told how Mr. Edwards defeated a proposition before the State Board of Assessors for an increased valuation on railroad property. Jersey City found that the valuations had been unchanged for twenty years, and believed that they should be raised. Mr. Edwards combated the proposition and the figures were unchanged. Later, said Mr. Record, he found an old brief of Mr. Edwards's when he was Corporation Counsel, in which here futed every argument he had advanced as the railroad representative. Taking up the question of railroad valuation, Mr. Record declared that the Pennsylvania line from tidewater to tidewater could not be duplicated for any sum of money, and that comparing the valuation of railroad property with adjoining land was not germane and was begging the question. He argued at some length in favor of an increased valuation of all railroad property, showing conclusively that Jersey City suffered more than any other municipality, because of the immense holdings by the railroads of real estate in that city.

BLOOMFIELD Savings Institution,

Office : 7 Broad Street,
Bloomfield, N. J.

MANAGERS:

Frank S. Benson,
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SURPLUS, - - \$72,000.00

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Deposits made up to the 3rd of each month draw interest from the first of that month.

Interest Credited July 1st and January 1st.

The tramp nuisance is becoming so annoying in Nutley that the householders are preparing to take summary measures to check the evil and to prevent their families from being annoyed while the men folk are at business during the day.

Dr. Julius Reich, physician to Prince Henry of Prussia, and who travelled with the Prince on the occasion of the latter's visit to this country, was the guest of Charles L. Seibert last Sunday. Dr. Reich was much pleased with Bloomfield.

VIOLIN INSTRUCTION.

Having had experience in teaching and concert work, would like pupils for violin. Joachim method. Address Mr. Howard S. Twitchell, 229 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, N. J., or Studio, 35 W. 42nd Street, New York City. TERMS REASONABLE.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

MESSRS. CHAS. M. DECKER & BROS.

IMPORTING GROCERS,

respectfully announce that they have purchased the business of CHARLES W. MARTIN at

37-39 Broad St., Bloomfield,

and that they will conduct the same in addition to their other stores, commencing June first.

The store will be refitted and restocked, and will be operated on the same high standard that characterizes the Decker stores at Orange, East Orange, South Orange and Montclair.

We respectfully invite your inspection and your account. All goods will be sold at exceedingly low prices, quality considered.

Nothing will be left undone to make the service to our patrons satisfactory in every detail, and we hope to merit your patronage.

CHAS. M. DECKER & BROS.

